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Tom McPartlin and Dean Straka's Garden.  
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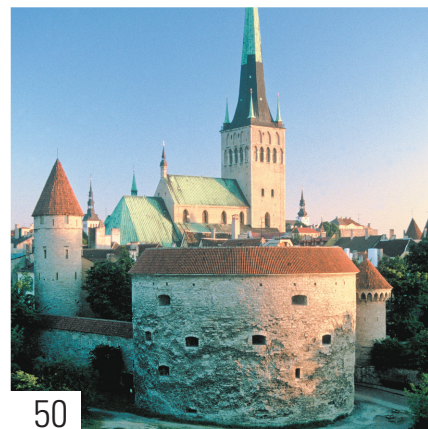


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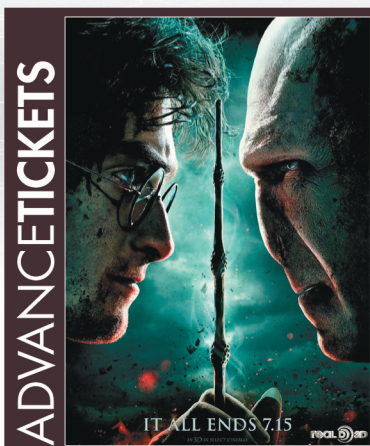


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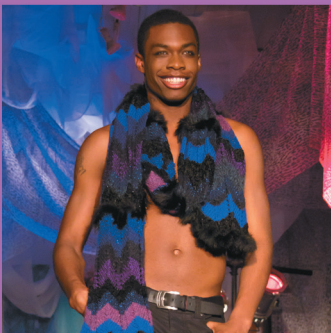
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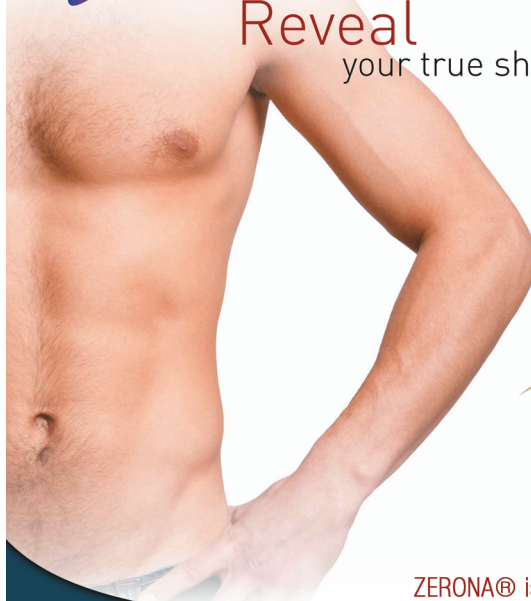
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## Hey, Look at This!

WHILE REVIEWING the University of Minnesota Press's Larry Millett mystery books recently (*Lavender*, May 21), I was so intrigued by his historical knowledge of things Twin Citian and Minnesotan that I explored his *Lost Twin Cities: Twin Cities Then and Now*; and *Strange Days and Dangerous Nights: Photos from the Speed Graphic Era*, which made me consider our modern-day news policies.

The Speed Graphic camera reigned in the American press from the 1930s through the 1950s, its large format presenting incredible clarity and detail in grisly homicide shots that were at that time displayed front and center in the news. Newspapers today show less gore, but the trend is back, and rife on the Internet.

"Watch: Two Horrific Crashes at Prestigious European Race" is typical of the little inserts inviting one to view mayhem and death. Ubiquitous technology and instantaneous dissemination, a populace armed with phone cameras and camcorders, now ensures that everyone can be a bearer of ill tidings, great or small.

A few decades back, at the trial of Dan White in the San Francisco City Hall assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, one glimpsed the inner courtroom spectacle only through court artists.

Now, in the currently hot Casey Anthony proceedings—a mother accused of murdering Caylee, her 2-year-old daughter—everything is broadcast live, the public either viewing, or at the courthouse fighting for a seat.

A few centuries back, crowds would walk from miles around to attend grisly public executions—and no doubt still would, given the chance.

I'm not arguing for the suppression of information, rather for a personal consideration of how one receives and disseminates information—and with what intent.

In early June of this year, a graphic video was displayed of the corpse of 13-year-old Hamza al-Khateeb, mutilated and killed while in custody by Syrian security officials. Outrage? Necessity?

In 1955, when the body of 14-year-old Emmett Till, murdered in Mississippi, was returned to his mother for burial, she insisted on an open casket viewing, intentionally permitting press photographs. She stated that the shocking image of her son's battered face "demonstrated what racism looked like."

Our ability to broadcast *everything*, watch *everything*, confers great power, but demands commensurate responsibility and caution lest we become simply a nation of mindless voyeurs and ghouls. □

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## How Does My Garden Grow?

WELL, HEY there, hi there, hello there, ladies! It's me again, Wanda Wisdom. As you may recall, I'm your 36-year-old, delicious, sober, drag-queen hostess with the *mostest*! Summer is well under way, although with the weather we've been having, you'd be forgiven for thinking it was still springtime. That's Minnesota for you!

In addition to being the original podcasting drag queen, I also hold the distinction of being the drag queen with the greenest thumb in all the land. Well, actually, I don't know that for sure, but I've yet to hear of another queen who composts.

Anyway, I've found the act of planting a garden to be terribly therapeutic over the years. In addition to the calming powers proffered by digging in the dirt, I find myself marveling at the magic of Mother Nature. You stick a couple little plants in the soil, and after only a couple months of minimal care, voila!—you have your very own farmer's market. It must be the city girl in me. Anytime I see food in its natural habitat beyond the walls of a big-box supermarket, I'm mesmerized.

*Wanda, Wanda, not Jane Fonda, how does your garden grow?* With-

out silver bells and cockleshells, that's for sure. No, this year's garden bounty is simple and straightforward. I have an herb garden full of basil, rosemary, thyme, mint, hyssop, and horseradish (which, did you know, is the 2011 herb of the year?). My vegetable garden is full of the things I love to eat: tomatoes, peppers, onions, and beans.

In addition, I've added peanuts to the list this year. I know, right? Peanuts. Who knew they grew in the ground? My secret garden favorite is a tiny little sweet fruit called the ground cherry. Think tiny, yellow, sweet, husk tomato. A handful of these guys with some sugar make the perfect ice cream topping.

Whether you garden yourself or benefit from the fruits of the labor of your friends and family, I hope you'll partake of Mother Nature's bounty as much as possible this summer. We have so little time to appreciate the season that it really behooves us to savor its delicacies whenever we can.

For pictures of my garden, head on over to <http://wandawisdom.com>! ■



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# The Traditional Community

My name is Jeff Wilfahrt. You may have run across my name recently in relation to your community regarding the marriage amendment bill, which will now appear on the 2012 ballot in Minnesota.

While not a member of your community, I'd like to throw out some thoughts for your consideration. In particular I'd like to address the lexicon of the day.

I suggest you consider dropping the terms "gay" and "lesbian" from your self-reference. It seems that far too many heterosexuals immediately jump to sexual imagery when they hear these terms. This has become evident to me in recent weeks while attending rallies at the State Capitol. Imagery also seems to dominate blog statements from the proponents of the bill.



Corporal Andrew Wilfahrt. Photo Courtesy of Jeff Wilfahrt

Twin Cities Pride Board would like to thank all our volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, runners, marchers and everyone who made the 2011 Pride Celebration a great success!

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From here on out, when asked about sexual orientation, I think you should answer with the term “traditional.” After all, homosexuality isn’t a new thing—it is a tradition. Let’s face it: The big argument on marriage is about tradition, so you as a community should stake your claim to that verbiage as well.

In the interest of fairness, I think the term “straight” should be changed in your community as well to the term “missionary,” because this will conjure image of a sexual position in the hetero community. Think of it as fair turnabout, and it will make more sense.

Language is a big thing in our household. We actually have the Oxford English Dictionary on our bookshelf, and it does get used. Our son, Andrew, whom we recently lost in Afghanistan, and who was indeed a member of your community, also loved language. His favorite term was “sentience.” I like that word, too. I’m glad he brought it into my lexicon.

In fact, I like the term so well that on Memorial Day, while his mother, brother, sister, and her friend stood graveside, I read aloud

“Expostulation and Reply” by Wordsworth in memoriam to Andrew. I admit my voice cracked, and I could barely utter the last line, but I figure wherever he is now, whatever he is now, he knew the poem and what was intended. It was, after all, sentient in nature.

If you like poems, you should check it out. It is short, and only takes a minute or two to read. It takes a little longer to soak in, and I suggest you find a stone to sit upon while reading it. For yourself, just take a moment to be.

Since I’m postulating a language change, I’d like to throw another term in the trash. That term is “civil union.” I don’t like that phrase. I much prefer the use of “civil marriage.” This seems to bring in so many other flavors. For example, we have “civil discourse,” “civil behavior,” and that old tried-and-true term “civility.”

There is another subtext to the use of civil as well, which is that it is a legal thing. So, by using “civil marriage,” the religiosity of marriage is deferred, which renders it more

of an implied legal thing. Let the churches have the term “marriage,” but let the public discourse on the amendment shift to “civil marriage” as the term of choice, at least as projected by your community.

After all, citizenship is our common ground, and that resides in the legal realm. We are all citizens, and therefore should share all legalities, including “civil marriage.”

I’ll let it rest there. I’ve shared my thoughts on the matter. I hope the traditional community (formerly known as LGBT) can begin to use this type of language about itself. Selfishly speaking, then I can claim membership, too.

Andrew’s photo was in the Traditional Pride Parade on June 26. The flag signed by the 3rd Platoon, which so dearly loved him, was there, too. □

*Jeff Wilfahrt is the father of Corporal Andrew Wilfahrt, 552nd MP Company, who was killed in action in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on February 27, 2011.*

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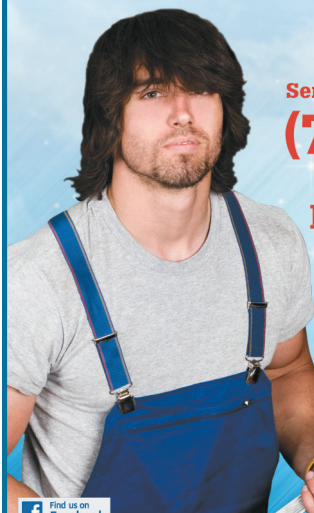
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# GLIMPSES

by George Holdgrafer



1

## GLASS Hosts North Country Classic XVIII

**On June** 3-5, the Gay & Lesbian Amateur Sports Society (GLASS) hosted North Country Classic Tennis Tournament XVIII at the Baseline Tennis Center at the University of Minnesota. The Gay & Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA) sanctioned the tournament, which included men's singles and doubles competition in the following divisions: Open, A, B, C, and D.

(From left) Neal Burghardt, Codirector; Bruce McBride, Codirector; Chris Dale, Committee Member. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



2

## Pride Institute Celebrates 25th Anniversary

**Pride Institute** marked its 25th anniversary with a celebration on June 16 at its facility at 14400 Martin Drive, Eden Prairie. Bethany Snyder, Field Representative for Senator Al Franken, spoke at the event. In 1986, Pride Institute opened as the nation's first treatment center dedicated to providing services exclusively for the GLBT community.

(From left) Rick Pliska, Pride Institute CEO; Nicky Simon-Burton; Pride Institute Director of Community Relations; Bethany Snyder, Field Representative for Senator Al Franken. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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# Caring Through Beauty

## St. Croix Garden Tour



Earmark July 16-17 for the 19th Annual St. Croix FamilyMeans Garden Tour, which will be in full bloom, Tour Chairman Tom DeGree said, with “eight gardens on the tour this year. The range is huge, from rain gardens that the Washington Conservation District helped design and will attend to answer questions, to gardens that are several acres in size.”

Whatever your gardening skills or ambitions, DeGree emphasized, “Most people enjoy the diversity among the gardens, because everyone can find something that would work in their own garden. All of the gardens are tended by the homeowners. No landscapers are paid to upkeep the gardens. Most garden owners will be available to answer questions, along with a Master Gardener at each garden.”

Proceeds from the tour will benefit FamilyMeans, a Stillwater-based group whose mission is to strengthen communities by strengthening families.

A family, according to the FamilyMeans mission statement, “consists of two or more people, whether living together or apart, related by blood, marriage, adoption or commitment to care for one another.”

The group has branch offices throughout the Twin Cities metro area, Southeastern Minnesota, and Western Wisconsin.

Commenting on the tour, FamilyMeans Director of Development and Communications Jennifer Snyder remarked, “Over the years, the Garden Tour has seen between 800 and 1,200 visitors, depending on the year—and weather!—and has raised between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for FamilyMeans programs each year.”

This year’s gardens,” Snyder explained, “are in Stillwater, Oakdale, and Lake Elmo,

and some 120 volunteers, many of whom have been helping with the garden tour for years, some since the very first tour, will assist. Also, many of the tour’s garden owners continue to participate for years to come after their gardens are featured on the tour. Tom DeGree is a great example of this phenomenon.”

DeGree noted that he and partner Dean Schlaak opened their garden to the tour several years ago, and, “This is the third year I have chaired the Garden Tour, because I support the mission of FamilyMeans.”

Describing the FamilyMeans efforts, Snyder pointed out, “Last year, FamilyMeans served over 23,700 people through our programs. FamilyMeans helps make challenging times more bearable for people, whether they’re dealing with financial challenges or issues with mental health, caregiving responsibilities, or workplace difficulties. FamilyMeans has worked to help families and individuals create stability in



Tom McPartlin and Dean Straka's Garden. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

their lives, so they feel safe, loved, and fully able to participate in life.”

The gardens themselves are widely varied, offering visitors with their own varied skills, acreage, and climactic situations a chance to glean ideas for their own domains. One of the eight has rain garden components. A master gardener will be stationed at each garden to answer questions about plant species and gardening techniques.

Tom McPartlin and Dean Straka of Oakdale own one of the featured gardens.

McPartlin spoke for the couple recently:





"We started 10 years ago with a quarter-acre blank slate—just an average-sized suburban lot. It has been a work in progress ever since, adding something new each year. We have run out of room for further expansion."

"I have a degree in landscape design, and have been known to do some consulting," McPartlin continued. "Dean also enjoys working and learning in the gardens. After the initial plantings in the spring, we both are involved in the maintenance throughout the seasons. Surprisingly, there is minimal work to be done during the summer. Our biggest

chore is to sit back with a cocktail, and enjoy the beauty as it attracts wildlife: birds, ducks, butterflies, and hummingbirds."

McPartlin added, "We became involved with FamilyMeans when Chairman Tom DeGree asked us to be a part of the tour. We are honored to open up our gardens and help out the community when it is for such a great cause. Gardening is our therapy, and allows us to express some creativity—a little way of bringing more beauty to this beautiful planet."

McPartlin addressed all gardeners, confiding, "People need to understand that gar-

dening is easy and relaxing. No matter how big or small your garden area is, how simple or complex, working in the garden is calming and rewarding when you sit back and see the beauty you have created. One thing to remember is that a garden is never finished, and you can't make a mistake. If something doesn't work, or you're not happy with your results, simply move things around, and try something else."

For more information, and to obtain tickets (free to children 12 and under), visit [www.familymeans.org](http://www.familymeans.org). ■



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# Minnesotans United for All Families Debuts

## OUTFRONT MINNESOTA AND PROJECT 515 FOUND NEW COALITION TO BATTLE MARRIAGE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

An amendment appearing on the November 2012 ballot will ask Minnesotans whether to embed discrimination based on sexual orientation in the state's constitution. In the upcoming election, Minnesotans will decide whether to define marriage as "only a union of one man and one woman."

Recently, Minnesotans United for All Families (MUAF) formed a coalition of organizations, businesses, faith communities, elected officials, and others around the state to fight against the amendment, which some have called "un-Minnesotan."

MUAF is a campaign to get as many constituents to "vote no" on the amendment as possible, according to Campaign Leader Donald McFarland.

"We are starting now to go after every single vote in Minnesota that we can," McFarland said.

From door-knocking to fundraisers, MUAF hopes to educate Minnesotans, while working at every level to stop the amendment, McFarland explained.

Some Minnesota politicians, including Governor Mark Dayton and State Senator Scott Dibble, have shown support. Hundreds of others have already donated time or money.

OutFront Minnesota and Project 515, the founders of the coalition, will lead the effort, Project 515 Executive Director Ann Kaner-Roth said. She added that a broad grassroots effort will inform Minnesotans about the amendment, and get them to the polls on Election Day.

"We really are energized to move forward in this battle," Kaner-Roth noted. "As unfor-



Center Stage for Marriage Equality, June 20, Loring Theater, Minneapolis: (from left) Paul Anderton, Loring Theater Public Relations Director; Monica Meyer, OutFront Minnesota Executive Director; Donald McFarland, Minnesotans United for All Families Campaign Leader; Ann Kaner-Roth, Project 515 Executive Director; Ann Barberio, Loring Theater Booking Associate; Steve Barberio, Loring Theater Artistic Director. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

tunate as it is that we have to fight it, I think we are ready to fight."

Because same-sex marriage is not allowed in the state, Kaner-Roth observed that the amendment is somewhat redundant, but still does damage.

"Functionally, it is a duplicative measure," Kaner-Roth pointed out, but it gives "a different level of permanence that creates even more barriers and more difficulties for same-sex couples and their families."

Kaner-Roth related, "We know that one of the most important things about the campaign is moving things forward in the Legislature that support equality for LGBT people and their families."

OutFront Minnesota Executive Director Monica Meyer commented that while it is "heartbreaking" the amendment is on the ballot, it gives people a chance to talk

to their families, neighbors, friends, and co-workers about the amendment and how to fight against it.

Meyer remarked, "This is our chance, supporters of equality, to use this heightened visibility to have conversations to make Minnesota a better place for all people. All over the state, we're saying this amendment is not Minnesotan. We believe in a state that really does celebrate all people. Vote against it, and make our community better while we do it."

MUAF hit the ground running with its Center Stage for Marriage Equality fundraiser on June 20 at the Loring Theater in Minneapolis, with Senators Scott Dibble and John Marty as featured speakers.

To learn more about Minnesotans United for All Families, visit <[www.mnunited.org](http://www.mnunited.org)>. ■



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#### **Tel Aviv Gay Pride Parade Draws Thousands**

*The Guardian* reports that thousands of people celebrated Gay Pride in Tel Aviv in early June. After the parade, people partied on Tel Aviv's Gordon Beach. Organizers estimated the crowds at more than 100,000.

#### **French Parliament Rejects Same-Sex Marriage Bill**

The Associated Press reports that France's National Assembly rejected a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. The measure failed in the French Parliament's lower house by a vote of 293 to 222. Opposition to the bill was led by President Nicolas Sarkozy's ruling Conservative Party.

#### **Croatian Leader Slams "Shameful" Gay Pride Parade Violence**

Radio Free Europe reports that Croatian President Ivo Josipovic has condemned violence at a gay rights march in the coastal city of Split. According to news accounts, 10,000 antigay protesters hurled rocks and bottles at the 200 people holding a Gay Pride parade. A dozen people were injured, among them four journalists. Josipovic said the violence was "not Croatia's real face."

#### **Utah's First Openly Gay Legislator Resigns**

The *Salt Lake Tribune* reports that Representative Jacki Biskupski, Utah's first openly gay

legislator, has announced she is resigning her seat because she intends to move out of the district she currently represents. She has served for the past 12 years. In the past 19 months, all three of the state's openly gay legislators have resigned.

#### **Disabled Gay Couple Kicked Out of Kentucky Pool**

The Kentucky Equality Federation says it's planning a protest over a gay couple with developmental disabilities who were allegedly kicked out of a recreational center in Hazard, Kentucky. A spokesman for the couple said staff at the Hazard Pavilion told the couple to leave the swimming pool because "gay people weren't allowed to

swim there." The Hazard City Attorney stated, however, "There is a dispute as to the facts that transpired."

#### **Another Lesbian Blogger Admits He's A Man**

Following news that the author of a popular blog allegedly written by a Syrian lesbian was, in fact, a married heterosexual man, *The Washington Post* reports that the woman behind a popular gay and lesbian news blog, *Lez Get Real*, also is actually a heterosexual man. Bill Graber admitted that he ran the site using his wife's identity for the past three years. Graber told the *Post*, "I didn't start this with my name because...I thought people wouldn't take it seriously, me being a straight man." He said he will turn the blog over to a lesbian contributor to the site.

#### **Suit Challenges Tennessee Antidiscrimination Limits**

*Business Week* reports that some of Nashville's City Council members and others are suing the State of Tennessee over a new law prohibiting local governments from creating antidiscrimination regulations that go beyond state protections. The law repealed a Nashville ordinance that prevented discrimination based on sexual orientation. It also voided a Nashville school policy that protected GLBT students from bullying.



#### **Gay Teens More Likely to Smoke, Drink, Carry Guns**

→ Reuters reports that a new study from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) shows that gay, lesbian, and bisexual high school students are more likely than their heterosexual peers to smoke, drink alcohol, and carry guns. Howell Wechsler, Director of the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health, told reporters, "We are very concerned that these students face such dramatic disparities for so many different health risks." Gay and lesbian students were twice as likely to have driven a car while drinking alcohol within the last 30 days, three times as likely to have smoked more than 10 cigarettes in a day during the previous month, and four times as likely to have carried a gun to school at least once during the previous month. ■



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# Hotter than a Drag Queen at a Mormon Clambake

Normally, a Minnesota summer in a nonelection year would be about as exciting, politically speaking, as, say, watching your grandmother organize her coupons.

This year, however, an 18-month-long battle over a constitutional marriage amendment is already well under way. Record-setting yet mildly hilarious and totally tragic is that not one but two highly conservative Minnesota Republicans are running for their party's presidential nomination. Plus, the prospect of a totally self-inflicted government shutdown looms just around the corner.

So, the next few weeks of summer in Minnesota are shaping up to be hotter than a drag queen at a Mormon clambake. Yes, that hot. Here I thought I was going to have a hard time finding locally relevant political topics to yammer on about over the next few issues.

The epic miniseries that is the statewide constitutional-marriage-amendment debate (can we please find a snappy acronym for this thing already?) has begun in earnest, and the culture warriors have already started their hand-wringing and teeth-gnashing.

In early June, the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board decided to take another look at whether corporations should be able to make contributions to ballot campaigns without revealing their donors.

Basically, groups like the National Organization for Marriage and the Minnesota Family Council prefer the status quo. They don't want their donors to be made public. I'd say that pretty much tells you which side of history they think they're on. In all fairness, however, their stated opposition to disclosure is a bit more nuanced: fear.

In state after state where this issue has

come up, these organizations and others like them have argued that personal safety would be at risk and free speech frozen if their supporters were forced to account for their financial contributions. It's a good thing these guys weren't around in 1776, or we might never have known who signed the Declaration of Independence.

It's absolutely ludicrous to suggest that organizations shouldn't be transparent about their financial backers. This is America. If you have to hide in the shadows to stand up for what you believe in, then perhaps you either need to reevaluate your beliefs, or, more plainly, grow a pair.

In other news, Minnesota's answer to Anita Bryant, Michele "Crazy Eyes" Bachmann, announced she's running for President. As someone who has been following her since her days of peeping on gay-rights rallies from behind the bushes, and fending off bathroom-bound lesbian kidnappers, I have to admit I'm beyond a little shocked that she has made it this far. I'm excited. No, seriously. Hear me out.

While it would be far easier to decry the

evils of Bachmann, and construct umpteen parallels between her rise to power and that of any number of history's political scoundrels and dastardly despots, I don't see any reason to be unnecessarily alarmist.

That's because, quite frankly, Bachmann is a revolutionary without a revolution. She's a Hitler without a Germany of the 1930s, or a Mao without a chaotic China of the 1940s. She's like a burning ember that lands on a pile of wet newspapers—all spark, no sizzle.

Unless, our economy implodes in the next year-and-a-half, this is Bachmann's last greatest moment in American politics. It doesn't get any better for her, and it doesn't get any worse for us. Actually, it gets much better for us. By "us," I mean those who enjoy watching a trainwreck.

Think about it: 17 months for the American media spotlight to shine its big, fat, ridiculous, 24/7 tabloid laser beam on the likes of Michele "You Da Man" Bachmann. Comedians, bloggers, and a whole host of commentators, including yours truly, could not ask for a better wellspring of WTF.

As for the impending government shutdown, let's just say there's nothing to say. Politicians playing politics is no surprise, but Minnesotans deserve better—especially the least among us who stand to suffer the most as a result of the gridlock.

Think of what we could accomplish if we didn't have to waste our time fighting same-sex marriage bans or progress-sucking blowhards like Bachmann. The mind reels. In the meantime, I'll keep writing, and I hope you'll keep reading. ■



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# West Side Story

Actor Stephen DeRosa Discusses Arthur Laurents



Photo by Joan Marcus

**WEST SIDE STORY REFLECTS THE GAY SENSIBILITY OF ARTHUR LAURENTS, WHO WROTE THE MUSICAL'S BOOK AND DIRECTED ITS ORIGINAL PRODUCTION.**

WHEN YOU see *West Side Story* at the Orpheum, take a moment to reflect on openly gay Arthur Laurents, who passed away May 5 at 93. He wrote the musical's book, and directed its original production. Moreover, for this Grammy-nominated Broadway revival, now touring nationally, his original direction has been used by director David Saint. Original lyricist Stephen Sondheim was also part of the revival rehearsal process.

Stephen DeRosa, who plays Glad Hand, the teacher in the musical's gang-stricken ghetto, is not only a Broadway veteran (*Into the Woods*, *Hairspray*), but also someone who knew Laurents and his career well.

De Rosa shares, "Arthur wrote the book in 1957, and cocreated it with three other brilliant gay Jews at their peak: choreographer Jerome Robbins, lyricist Stephen Sondheim, and composer Leonard Bernstein."

As De Rosa explains, "We actually worked directly with Arthur on this production. He was there for casting. He was there for the first week of rehearsal, and for the last week of rehearsal, and for the whole tech. This is the second revival of the show in Broadway history."

DeRosa adds that an intimate friend of Lau-

rents's who had seen a Spanish-language production of the classic gave him the idea of incorporating Spanish language into the revival. Though Spanish takes up less than 10 percent of the show, it gives the play a new, raw edge.

Sondheim, who is still alive, also took the opportunity to make some changes.

DeRosa observes, "He was really excited to work with Lin-Manuel Miranda, who worked with him on rewriting some of the lyrics in Spanish with a new feel for three of the numbers: 'A Boy Like That,' 'I Feel Pretty,' and a part of a quintet sequence."

In 1957, *West Side Story* blew the lid off contemporary race issues, unlike previous Broadway musicals. Though works like *Showboat* and *South Pacific* decried racism, *West Side Story* raised the stakes.

Two years later, Laurents wrote *Gypsy*, regarded by many as his masterpiece. He also directed the first Broadway production of *La Cage Aux Folles*, *The Musical* in 1983.

Well before these, Laurents probed homoeroticism in his 1948 screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock's *Rope*. Laurents's groundbreaking play *Home of the Brave* (1949), which addressed anti-Semitism in the US

military, is still a consummate inquiry into male intimacy.

In 1973, Laurents shocked Hollywood and Wall Street with *The Way We Were*, showing that a critical view of McCarthyism could be a box-office smash. According to DeRosa, Barbra Streisand's character in the film contains much of Laurent's own personality. He gave Streisand her big break in 1962 with *I Can Get it For You Wholesale*.

Targeted by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Laurents discusses his political activism, military service, and homosexuality in his memoir *Original Story*.

Laurents's screenplays for *The Way We Were* and *The Turning Point* won the Writers Guild of America Award. His *The Turning Point* (1977) brought ballet to the American masses like no other film before.

It's as if everything Laurents touched moved forward the evolution of culture. □

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*God of Carnage.* Photo by Paul Kolnic

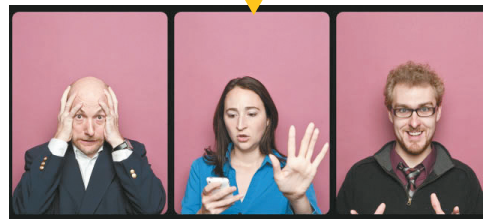
***God of Carnage*** — Director John Miller-Stephany harvests the laughs in Yazmina Reza's 2009 Tony-winner. Two middle-class straight couples play a blame game over a playground altercation between their sons. Bill McCallum and Tracey Maloney portray a corporate couple benefiting from pharmaceutical profiteering. Chris Carlson and Jennifer Blagen contrast them as a socially conscious pair plagued with self-righteousness. Though the actors skate over the Albee-esque savagery beneath the text, they're hilarious! **Through Aug. 7 • Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. • (612) 377-2224 • [www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)**



*Waiting for Godot.*  
Photo by Charlie Gorrill

***Waiting for Godot*** — Irish playwright Samuel Beckett (1906-1989) captured the world's overwhelming sense of alienation and disillusionment following World War II, when the Cold War was beginning. The Father of Absurdist Theater, he interpreted a collectively unconscious feeling that humankind was adrift in an essentially godless universe. On *Waiting for Godot* (1953), Beckett's most famous play, director Ryan Ripley muses, "As absurd as the characters are, there is something very recognizable in their struggle against meaninglessness." **Through July 23 • Hollywood Theater, 2815 Johnson Ave. NE, Mpls. • (612) 874-9321 • [www.theatreprorata.org](http://www.theatreprorata.org)**

***Oh, the Humanity and other good intentions*** — In playwright Will Eno's world, an overly masculine football coach laments a failed season. An airline spokeswoman is insensitive to crash victims. Members of a dating service open up about deep desires. Actor Christopher Kehoe says, "None of these folks are experts in public relations, so often, what's coming out of their mouths is something human and tactless." Natalie Novacek directs Kehoe, Mo Perry, and Matt Sciple, who deliver most of their performances solo. **Through July 24 • Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 872-4223 • [www.intermediaarts.org](http://www.intermediaarts.org)**



*Oh, the Humanity and other good intentions.*  
Photo by Richard Fleischman Photography

***The Cherry Orchard*** — Anton Chekhov's last play captures the essence of how Russian aristocracy, and by extension, upper classes throughout Europe, lost their financial and psychological footing roughly a decade before World War I and the Russian Revolution. The National Theater of Great Britain transmits in high definition the acclaimed Zoe Wanamaker as Ranyeskyaya, an elitist in denial that her assets are en route to liquidation. Set in 1904, it debuted the same year, just 43 years after Russian serfs were emancipated. **July 18 • Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. • (612) 377-2224 • [www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)** →





It's all about the waddle. 3M Penguins of the African Coast. Opens July 9th.





[ PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM ]



*Exposed.* Courtesy of Walker Art Center

***Exposed: Voyeurism, Surveillance, and The Camera Since 1870*** — This is perhaps the most transgressive and haunting Walker exhibition ever. Right-wingers will shrink from its frank exposure of American militarism and espionage. Lefties will squirm over Yoko Ono's film *Rape*, which some will understandably see as the undue harassment of a woman by a woman.

Organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Tate Modern, *Exposed* boldly challenges notions of privacy and propriety with images that evoke sexuality, institutionalized violence, and seriously questionable surveillance techniques.

A stark example is *Surveillance Photographs of Militant Suffragettes* (1913) from the Criminal Records Office in Great Britain. As if to remind us that surveillance has increased exponentially over the past century, the exhibit contains various other unsettling examples of government intrusion.

Walker patrons become second-person voyeurs. Watch Andy Warhol's 1964 film *Blow Job*, then walk a short way to see legendary photos from Vietnam by Eddie Adams and Nick Ut, only a few feet away from harrowing reflections of the darkest moments the Kennedy family endured. All are from the same decade.

Some sexual images are intrusive, some clearly deliberate, with the subject fully aware. Shot below the neck, in gay icon Robert Mapplethorpe's *Man in a Polyester Suit* (1980), an uncut penis hangs matter-of-factly outside the zipper.

Man Ray's sensuous *The Transvestite Barquette, Paris* (1926), from a series commissioned by Jean

Cocteau, documents the illustrious transvestite performer's illusional process from male to female. Though this photo is no longer scandalous, one senses the transgressive spirit. Indeed, nowadays, the sexual images may be less controversial than other images in *Exposed*!

**Through Sept. 18 • Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 375-7600 • [www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)**

[ Theater ]



*Twelfth Night.* Photo Courtesy of The Strange Capers

***Twelfth Night Or What You Will*** — Randy Reyes and Eric Powell Holm, who have created remarkable queer performance work, codirect William Shakespeare's 1602 crossgender comedy for The Strange Capers troupe. It's performed outdoors in one of our great gayborhoods. Reyes explains, "We've set the play in a beach town to take full advantage of the natural beauty of Powderhorn Park." On the content, Holm notes, "It's about unrequited love, about falling desperately for someone who can never love you back. Shakespeare paints a masterpiece about that unrequited feeling: 'For me, we would be perfect together, but for you, I'm not even a possibility.'" **July 9-31 • Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Ave. S., Mpls. • [www.thestrangecapers.com](http://www.thestrangecapers.com)**

[ Dance ]

***All Sparkle, No Heart*** — Genderbending trio Mad King Thomas stirs up the Walker Art Center/Southern Theater *Momentum: New Dance Works 2011* series. Performer Theresa Madaus says this piece "addresses the glamorized construction of femininity, and its relation to power and fame. We've been fascinated by the impact of blond celebrities and the replaceable nature of these icons. We're also working with images ripped from the suffragists. Why are a bunch of chicks in pantaloons on bicycles relevant to today? We're not sure, but there's something to be mined in the first-wave feminists, as we staunchly align ourselves with third-wave freedom and choice." **July 14-16 • Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 340-1725 • [www.southerntheater.org](http://www.southerntheater.org)** □



Mad King Thomas.  
Photo Courtesy of Walker Art Center





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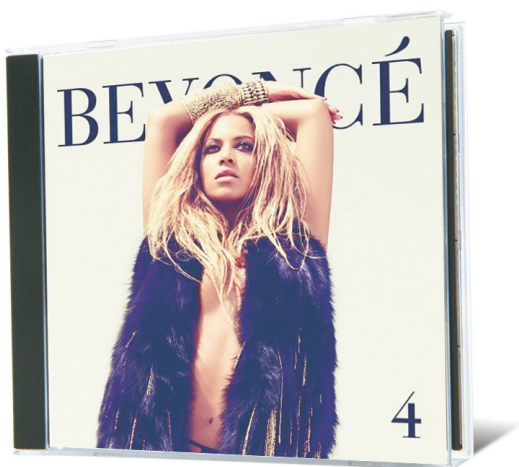
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#### 4 BEYONCÉ

→ The pop world has changed since the last time Ms. Fierce brought out an album—things that start with “Lady” and end with “Gaga.” You can hear the Egg’s influence throughout 4, especially on the album’s back half, when Beyoncé lets go of the standard modern R&B for some songs with a bit of oddball kick. First, there’s some love by numbers (literally in the album opener “1+1”), followed by similar-sounding breakups. She doesn’t embrace these moments of eccentricity entirely, but it was a pleasant surprise to be reminded of the likes of Tori Amos, M.I.A. (on the wonderfully bizarre “Countdown”), and Gaga herself amid the usual love song/breakup song/I’m-a strong-fierce-woman song cycle that has typified Beyoncé’s past albums.



#### Bon Iver BON IVER

→ The gentle, Wisconsin-cabin-recorded vibe of Bon Iver’s debut is replaced by something more expansive on this somewhat-typical “difficult” second album. Bandleader Justin Vernon still employs a soft, distant, almost-vague singing voice on these 10 tracks, but throughout the set, you can hear plenty of additional influences, including the ’70s soft rock that followed the original folk explosion of the 1960s. At times, all this threatens to derail the album, as the extra layers take a band known for its sparseness, and make them sound like any one of a million other modern indie-rock bands. It all takes away from the original’s stripped-down beauty without laying a new foundation. But enough of it works, such as the angelic “Wash,” to make it worthwhile.



#### Born This Way LADY GAGA

→ A delay in obtaining a copy of this album meant I couldn’t get my review in time for the Pride Edition, but it’s to Lady Gaga’s benefit. Initially rather cool to it, I’ve found it has grown on me in ways that her debut never managed to do. Gaga’s mix of personal politics and shock imagery (really, she looks like a refugee from Marilyn Manson’s band) sometimes overshadows a bright pop artist—one who can make “Judas” funky, and create the best Madonna-like songs for at least two decades. The pro-be-who-you-are message shouldn’t be lost. I would have loved this album to death when I was 16, because there would have been a voice saying being odd is really, really cool.



#### Gloss Drop BATTLES

→ What to do when your singer leaves the band? For experimental post-punk/dance rockers Battles, it’s simply don’t bother. Most of the band’s sophomore release is instrumental, and the remaining trio power their way through a compelling set of brittle guitar work and propulsive rhythms, fueled by percussion that owes as much to the sharp melodies of the steel pan as a traditional kit. When vocals are needed, some heavy hitters are involved, including electronic-dance godfather Gary Numan, who sings the appropriately titled “My Machines.” Elsewhere, Kazu Makino of Blonde Redhead and Yamataka Eye (from legendary Japanese noise rockers the Boredoms) bring their own signature vocals to the music. □





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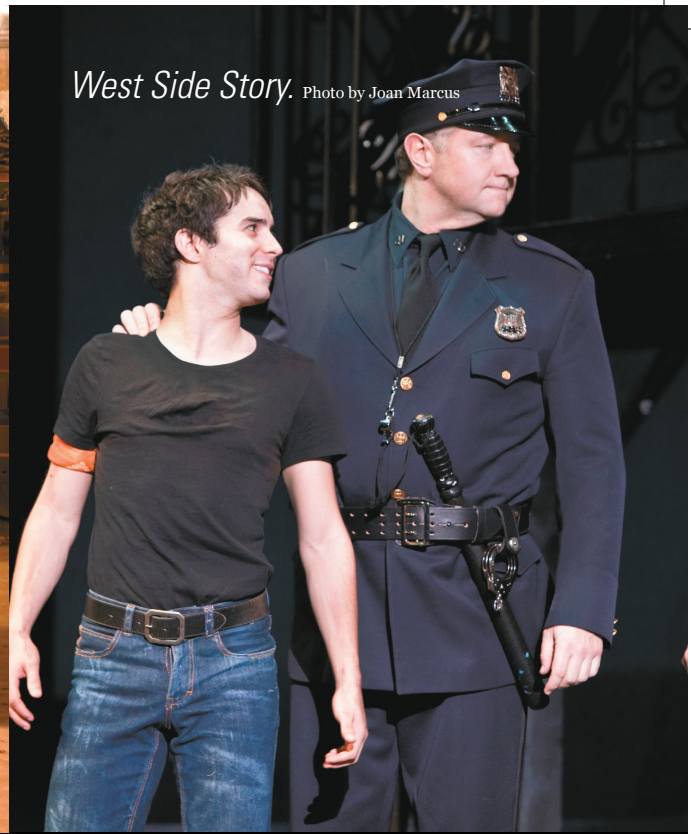


OUT  
ON THE TOWN

# JUNE-JULY



*Waiting for Godot.* Photo by Charlie Gorrill



*West Side Story.* Photo by Joan Marcus

30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Note: This calendar includes events formerly in the Bar Calendar.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 30

**CONvergence 2011 (Science Fiction).** Through July 3. Sheraton Bloomington Minneapolis South, 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington. <www.convergence-con.org>.

**Local Author Event: Jessie Chandler.** 6:30 PM. Valley Booksellers, 217 Main St. N., Stillwater. <www.jessiechandler.com>.

**Symphony For The Cities.** 8 PM. Minnesota Orchestra @ Lake Park Bandshell, Winona. <www.minnesotaorchestra.org>.

## FRIDAY, JULY 1

**Head Dressed: Paintings by Toni Gallo.** Through July 31. Opening Reception July 8. Rosalux Gallery, 1224 2nd St. N., Mpls. <www.rosaluxgallery.com> or <www.tonigallo.com>.

**Skits!.** Through July 9. Brave New Workshop Student Union @ Brave New Workshop Theatre, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 332-6620. <www.bravenewworkshop.com>.

## SATURDAY, JULY 2

**Electric Eye Fireshow.** 9 PM. Infi-mati Fire Circus/Bedlam Theatre @ Grumpy's, 1111 Washington Ave. S., Mpls. <http://bedlamtheatre.org>.

**Lip Service.** 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

**A Star-Spangled Salute to Americal.** 8 PM. Minnesota Orchestra @ Orchestra Hall, 11th St. & Marquette Ave., Mpls. (612) 371-5656. <www.minnesotaorchestra.org>.

## MONDAY, JULY 4

**Symphony For The Cities.** 8:30 PM. Excelsior Commons, Excelsior. <www.minnesotaorchestra.org>.

## THURSDAY, JULY 7

**Fresh Ink: What's the Word For?.** Through July 10. Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., 8th Fl., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.illusiontheater.org>.

**Street Scene.** Through July 30. Girl Friday Productions @ Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. (612) 729-1071. <www.girlfridayproductions.com>.

## FRIDAY, JULY 8

**The Fantasticks.** Through July 31. Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-3010. www.theatreintheround.org.

**Milly and Tillie.** Through July 24. Open Eye Theatre, 506 E. 24th St., Mpls. <www.openeyetheatre.org>.

**A Night In Vienna.** 8 PM. Minnesota Orchestra @ Orchestra Hall, 11th St. & Marquette Ave., Mpls. <www.minnesotaorchestra.org>.

**Patio Nights Featuring Matthew Inkala & The Hostages.** 7:30 PM. Minnesota Museum of American Art @ City House, Upper Landing Park, Shepard Rd. & Old Chestnut St., St. Paul. July 8. (651) 797-4057. <www.mmma.org>.

**YOLO.** 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

## SATURDAY, JULY 9

**3M Penguins of the African Coast.** Permanent Exhibit Opening. Min-

nesota Zoo, Apple Valley. (952) 431-9500. <http://mnzoo.org>.

**Mendelssohn Violin Concerto.** 8 PM. Minnesota Orchestra @ Orchestra Hall, 11th St. & Marquette Ave., Mpls. <www.minnesotaorchestra.org>.

**Mimosa Movies: Cabaret.** 5 PM. Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 353-6781. <www.loringtheater.com>.

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game: Lynx vs. Sun.** 7 PM. Target Center, Mpls. <www.wnba.com/lynx>.

**North Star Gay Rodeo Association Dance.** 8 PM. James Ballentine VFW, 2916 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. <www.nsga.org>.

**Saboteur.** Through Aug. 3. Walking Shadow Theatre @ Undisclosed Secret Location in NE Mpls. <www.walkingshadowcompany.org>.

**Taste of Stillwater.** 11 AM. St. Croix Vineyards, Stillwater. <www.tasteofstillwater.com>.

**TNT Show.** 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

**Twelfth Night Or What You Will.** Through July 31. The Strange Capers @ Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Ave. S., Mpls. <www.thestrangecapers.com>.

**Twin Cities' Roots, Rock & Deep Blues Music Festival.** 2 PM. Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 724-6273 or <www.patrickscabaret.org>.

## SUNDAY, JULY 10

**Chamber Music with Osmo Vänskä.** 7 PM. Minnesota Orchestra @ Orchestra

Hall, 11th St. & Marquette Ave., Mpls. <www.minnesotaorchestra.org>.

**Northern Lights Women's Softball League Games.** Taft No. 1, Richfield: 3:30 PM, OctoFusion vs. Players; 4:35 PM, Players vs. Master Batters; 5:40 PM, The Hassles vs. Where My Pitches At; 6:45 PM, The Hassle vs. Master Batters. Taft No. 2: 3:30 PM, TC Kings vs. Full Spectrum; 4:35 PM, BLUSH vs. X-Factor; 5:40 PM, X-Factor vs. Coale's Campers; 6:45 PM, Foxy Boxes in Sox vs. Sweet Nuggets. For more info, Schmell at <nls\_wsl\_schmell@comcast.net>.

## TUESDAY, JULY 12

**9 to 5: The Musical.** Through July 17. Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <www.ordway.org>.

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game: Lynx vs. Mercury.** Noon. Target Center, Mpls. <www.wnba.com/lynx>.

**Nanci Yermakoff—Transparent Spaces.** Through Sept 9. Opening Reception July 14. Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Fl., Mpls. (612) 332-2978. <www.ninabliesegallery.com>.

**West Side Story.** Through July 17. Hennepin Theatre Trust @ Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (800) 982-2787. <www.hennepintheatretrust.org>.

## THURSDAY, JULY 14

**All Sparkle, No Heart.** Through July 16. Part of Momentum: New Dance Works 2011. Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 340-1725. <www.southerntheater.org>.

**Fresh Ink: No Place Called Home.** Through July 17. Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., 8th Fl., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.illusiontheater.org>.

CALENDAR



*God of Carnage.* Photo by Paul Kolnik



*Minnesota Lynx.* Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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**Minnesota Red Ribbon Ride.** Through July 17. <[www.redribbonride.org](http://www.redribbonride.org)>.

**Rochester Pridefest: Happy Hour.** 5 PM. Wicked Moose Bar and Grill, 1201 Eastgate Dr. SE, Rochester. <[www.glcsmn.org](http://www.glcsmn.org)>.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 15

**Dragged Out.** 9:30 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <[www.townhousebar.com](http://www.townhousebar.com)>.

**Ex-Gays.** Through July 30. Savage Umbrella Theater @ Matthews Park Community Bldg., 2313 29th Ave. S., Mpls. <[www.savageumbrella.org](http://www.savageumbrella.org)>.

**Foam Party.** Gay 90's, 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-7755. <[www.gay90s.com](http://www.gay90s.com)>.

**Love Letters.** Through July 31. Yellow Tree Theatre, 320 5th Ave. SE, Osseo. (763) 493-8733. <<http://yellowtreetheatre.com>>.

**Rochester Pridefest: Block Party.** 6 PM. Peace Plaza, Downtown Rochester. <[www.glcsmn.org](http://www.glcsmn.org)>.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 16

**Rochester Pridefest: Main Event.** 11 AM. Peace Plaza, Downtown Rochester. <[www.glcsmn.org](http://www.glcsmn.org)>.

**Rochester Pridefest: Bear BBG and Fund-raiser.** 5 AM. Private Location, Rochester. <[www.glcsmn.org](http://www.glcsmn.org)>.

**Rochester Pridefest: Dragagonza.** 8 PM. Wicked Moose Bar and Grill, 1201 Eastgate Dr. SE, Rochester. <[www.glcsmn.org](http://www.glcsmn.org)>.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 17

**Rochester Pridefest: LGBT Pride-**

**Themed Church Services.** 8:30 AM & 11:30 AM. Peace United Church of Christ, 1503 2nd Ave. NE, Rochester. <[www.glcsmn.org](http://www.glcsmn.org)>.

**Rochester Pridefest: LGBT Pride Church Service.** 10 AM. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1727 Walden Ln. SW, Rochester. <[www.glcsmn.org](http://www.glcsmn.org)>.

**Singles Pool Tournament.** 4 PM. 19 Bar, 19 W. 15th St., Mpls. (612) 871-5553.

#### ONGOING

**Absentee Landlord.** Curated by John Waters. Through Mar. 4. Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (712) 375-7600. <[www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)>.

**Alexa Horochowski: Cloud Cave.** Through July 4. Burnet Art Gallery, Le Méridien Chambers Minneapolis, 901 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 767-6900. <[www.lemeridienchambers.com](http://www.lemeridienchambers.com)>.

**Beginners.** Through July 6. Edina Cinema, 3911 W. 50th St., Edina. (651) 649-4416. <[www.landmarktheatres.com/market/minneapolis/uptowntheatre.htm](http://www.landmarktheatres.com/market/minneapolis/uptowntheatre.htm)>.

**A Copper Forest—Knitted By Hand.** Through July 12. Susan Hensel Gallery, 3441 Cedar Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 722-2324. <[www.susanhenselgallery.com](http://www.susanhenselgallery.com)>.

**David Malcolm Scott: Minnesota/West.** Through July 9. Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Fl., Mpls. (612) 332-2978. <[www.ninabliesegallery.com](http://www.ninabliesegallery.com)>.

**The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.** Through Aug. 27. Minnesota Centennial Showboat, Harriet Island, St.

Paul. (651) 227-1100. <[www.showboat.umn.edu](http://www.showboat.umn.edu)>.

**Dinner with the Tsars: Imperial Russian Porcelain.** Through Aug. 7. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <[www.tmore.org](http://www.tmore.org)>.

**Esperanza.** Through July 28. Gordon Parks Gallery, Library and Learning Center, Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St., St. Paul. Erica at (651) 793-1631. <[Erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu](mailto:Erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu)>.

**Facing the Lens: Portraits of Photographers.** Through Aug. 28. Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 2400 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. (888) 642-2787. <[www.artsmia.org](http://www.artsmia.org)>.

**A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.** Through July 24. Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-7063. <[www.jungletheater.com](http://www.jungletheater.com)>.

**God of Carnage.** Through Aug. 7. Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <[www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)>.

**H.M.S. Pinafore.** Through Aug. 28. Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <[www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)>.

**Identities Explored: A Celebration of Art from the GLBT Community.** Through July 30. Hennes Art Company, 1607 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 436-2077. <[www.hennesart.com](http://www.hennesart.com)>.

**Jesus Christ Superstar.** Through July 30. Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, 501 W. 78th St., Chanhassen. (952) 934-1500. <[www.chanhassentheatres.com](http://www.chanhassentheatres.com)>.

**The Marvelous Wondrettes.** Through July 24. Plymouth Playhouse, 2705 Annapolis Ln. N., Plymouth. (763) 553-1600. <[www.plymouthplayhouse.com](http://www.plymouthplayhouse.com)>.

**Mass Portrait: New Work by Anna Tsantir and Daniel Luedtke.** Through July 23. X Y and Z Gallery, 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. <[www.thexyandz.com](http://www.thexyandz.com)>.

**Nan Golden's The Ballad of Sexual Dependency.** Through Oct. 16. Part of exhibition *Exposed: Voyeurism, Surveillance, and the Camera Since 1870*. Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (712) 375-7600. <[www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)>.

**Oh, the Humanity and other good intentions.** Through July 24. Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 872-4223. <[www.intermediaarts.org](http://www.intermediaarts.org)>.

**Ordway Summer Dance Series.** Through Aug. 4. Landmark Plaza, 5th & Market Sts., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <[www.ordway.org](http://www.ordway.org)>.

**Panic.** Through July 10. Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul. (651) 291-7005. <[www.parksquaretheatre.org](http://www.parksquaretheatre.org)>.

**Same-Sex Ballroom Dancing.** Tuesdays, 6:30-8 PM. Through Aug. 2. Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 353-6781. <[www.loringtheater.com](http://www.loringtheater.com)>.

**Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art.** Through Sept. 15. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <[www.tmore.org](http://www.tmore.org)>.

**Torch Song Trilogy.** Through July 3. Workhouse Theatre Co. @ The Warren—An Artist Habitat, 4440 Osseo Rd., Mpls. (612) 216-1583. <[www.workhousetheatre.org](http://www.workhousetheatre.org)>.

**Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs.** Through Sept. 5. Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. (651) 221-9444. <[www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org)>.

**Waiting for Godot.** Through July 23. Theatre Pro Rata @ Hollywood Theater, 2815 Johnson Ave. NE, Mpls. (612) 874-9321. <[www.theatreprorate.org](http://www.theatreprorate.org)>.



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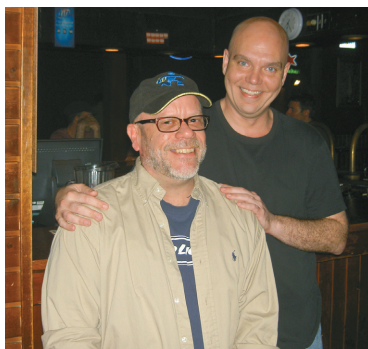
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# BIELLA

**It's worth the drive to Excelsior to enjoy Biella's superlative cuisine and wine offerings.**

In my 10 years in the Twin Cities, I've grown accustomed to having more than 20 different restaurants within a five-minute drive of my home. Apparently, I'm not the only one who is reluctant to travel more than 10 minutes to get a good meal. Restaurants outside the metro loop often have a hard time attracting diners from the heart of the city, even if they are only a 15-minute drive away. Now that gas prices have risen yet again, I am not one to advocate needless travel. However, as many of us are cutting back on vacation



time and other little luxuries, a trip out to Excelsior can work wonders for the weary city dweller.

Antique shops, chocolatiers, and clothing boutiques line Excelsior's Water Street, so named for its proximity to Lake Minnetonka. After enjoying the lake, and strolling around what was once an 1850s destination community, return to Water Street, where Biella offers an opulent, chef-driven menu at suburban prices. The building has changed hands and purposes many times since it was completed in 1883, but a well-worn wood floor and spots of exposed brick honor the original structure. The open dining room, complete with its beautifully restored tin-tiled ceiling, still manages to capture a feeling of warmth and intimacy.

We began with Caramelized Sea Scallops (\$14/\$26). A delicate sear left the plump scallops' flesh tender and juicy at the center. Accompanying mango and citrus salsa with roasted jalapeño and cilantro were robust enough that I'd recommend enjoying at least part of your scallops without it. However, a blood orange gastrique was the perfect intermediary for both scallop and salsa.

The Catalan Salad (\$9) evoked the flavors of what is now Northwestern Spain, Andorra, and Southern France near the Mediterranean. The salad began with a base of mixed baby greens lightly tossed with a Dijon and Manchego cheese dressing. Ripe briney olives, red onions, grape tomatoes, egg whites, and oven-roasted potatoes showcased the region's fondness for assertive flavors and simplicity.

With both our sea scallops and salad, we sipped the New Harbour Sauvignon Blanc (\$9/\$33), which is crisp, dry, and suitably understated, with notes of citrus. The wine list at Biella is a practical one, allowing for a variety of occasions, palates, and budgets. However, it also seems to put a priority on not offering the same bottles you'd find at another menu just down the street.

If the Catalan was a model of simplicity and restraint, the Lobster Ravioli (\$12/\$22) was its opposite. Artichoke hearts, local asparagus, black tiger shrimp, and sea bass complemented the beautiful squid ink-striped ravioli. All were then enveloped by a rich, sensual truffle-and-herb butter sauce. This dish evolved, one bite at a time.



(Facing page, from left) Dining area; Pan Seared Sea Bass. (This page, from above) Caramelized Sea Scallops; Catalan Salad. Photos by Mike Hnida



A glass of Italian Arneis (\$9/\$33) made for an interesting pairing—the arneis grape has only recently begun to become popular after years spent basically as a filler. With new cultivating techniques, the spirited and finicky grape has been developed into a nice alternative to pinot blanc.

Having spent some time in Chile this past year, I have been missing good sea bass. Though we are nowhere near Chile, or *any* coast for that matter, once fish has been frozen for shipping, it can be defrosted anywhere to the same effect. Once again, Biella's chef proves his proficiency with delicate seafood, and employs truffle oil to great effect, lending its perfume to rosemary red potatoes, oyster mushrooms, green beans, and a goat-cheese cream sauce.

The menu also features pizzas and a variety of meat dishes, but it was time for us to move toward dessert. The list changes daily, but that night, we were favored with a vintage recipe: semisweet lemon crème and

strawberry coulis, decorated with an orange/almond tuile—a perfect summertime treat.

In the seven years it has been open, Biella has certainly caught on with the locals—in fact, some regulars dine there a few times each week. However, this popularity has sometimes led to its being overbooked and, quite frankly, overextended. The staff is now compensating by being a little more conservative in scheduling, so reservations are always helpful, especially on weekends. If you'd like to enjoy its fare outside the dining room, Biella also offers wine dinner cruises throughout the season—check the website for upcoming events. ■

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## [ OUT ON THE TOWN **FOOD BITES** ]

### [ **BLACK FOREST INN** ] by Carla Waldemar

The Black Forest Inn is more than a German restaurant (and the best one in the metro). It's a cultural—or make that countercultural—institution.

For more than 40 years on Eat Street (Nicollet Avenue) in Minneapolis—long before there was an Eat Street—the Black Forest has been serving goulash and *gemutlichkeit* in equally heaping portions to art students from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, its graying alums (now accountants), and other idealists, gathered to quote Zen; plot political movements; or simply practice their German with owner Erich Christ, a butcher from the Old Country, and his wife, JoAnne.

STRAIGHT FROM Germany's Black Forest itself, the Black Forest Inn is cloaked in murals of pine-fringed Bavarian lakes and castles—painted, one might guess, in lieu of a starving artist's bar tab. They accent the dark wood and well-worn plank flooring that hosts a colony of cozy tables straight from the operetta-land of *The Student Prince*, complete with faux-stained glass, coats of arms, and swags of dirndl-ready fabric.

As antidote to the uber-oompah, there's also the cheeky,

now-legendary, life-sized photo of the ladies of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to which louder and louder toasts are raised as the night wears on, and the beer flows faster.

Of course, that legendary vine-covered patio is favored by one and all as soon as the ice breaks on the Mississippi.

Christ, the former butcher, cuts his meat in portions judged mammoth even by Minnesota standards. Bulk it up on dishes like his justly famous house-made bratwurst or meatballs as

big as a grapefruit. Same goes for the sauerbraten, rouladen, and schnitzels.

But the dish that puts even these to shame is the giant pork shank, cleaved, one suspects, from some brontosaucean breed of hog. Fortunately, the server does all the heavy lifting—all you're called upon is to pull the luscious, juicy, long-simmered meat apart with the mere touch of a fork. Well, one other requirement: Wash it down with the help of a stein still overflowing from the tap.

The shank is served with a full-bodied bread roll, far more rewarding to sink your teeth into than a hoity-toity croissant from across the border. Also on the platter rises a mound of mashed potatoes—unless you beg, as I always do, in its stead for a pyramid of spaetzle, those curly, little noodle-dumplings that soak up the delicious gravy so adeptly.

Fans fancying the bratwurst find their plates also piled with hot, sweet German potato salad in the traditional bacon-vinegar dressing, along with forests of sauerkraut (not very sour either) to assure no one will perish from hunger on the drive home.

Another wise way to forestall that tragedy is to order dessert,



Black Forest's Famous Pork Shank

the most notable of which is the signature Black Forest cherry torte—a many-layered indulgence made even more wicked by thick slatherings of buttercream. Or the slimmer, but no less seductive, Sacher torte—the flourless cake born in Vienna. Or the iconic apple strudel. Or—what the heck?—another beer. ▣

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# Local Celebrity

MY FAVORITE show on television is *Oprah: Behind the Scenes*. I'm anticipating a restraining order from my DVR for watching it so often. Whether you like her or not, she's kind of friggin' fascinating.

What enamors us about Oprah and, more broadly, celebrity, is that members of the glitterati are empires unto themselves—fragile giants built on social capital and, occasionally, talent. They are living showcases of glamour, fortune, empowerment, and aspiration. They lead the fantasy life—at least from afar.

Besides the A-List, there's a group of interesting smaller-scale celebrities called the Local Celebrity, composed mostly of broadcast-network-affiliate anchormen and women.

In addition to their informing-the-public responsibilities, these folks help guide charitable fundraising for their communities, emcee dinners and silent auctions, make appearances at state fairs, and (attempt) to brighten our day with cheerful banter over the morning news desk.

The Local Celebrity is the most delicate version of their species. While Oprah must appeal to an entire demographic, the Local Celebrity must appeal not only to the tastes of a smaller demographic, but also to a regional one.

Also, the anchorman's industry competition is a tough cookie to break considering there are only so many lenses with which to view the news (and how many more adjectives can we find for Doppler radars?).

The Local Celebrity, then, must have that sparkling personality to set one apart—a personality that not only influences his or her audience, but also exceeds his or her expectations in such a way as to *outdo* the competition. This applies to all local celebrities, from the anchorperson to the socialite.

So, Oprah is that former-Local Celebrity-turned-American Queen. In my heart, she's still leading the life of a Local Celebrity, but on a much, much larger scale—which is why she's become, well, Oprah. Something can be learned from her, and from all local celebrities.

We each have a network of friends and acquaintances (our “demographic,” if you will) who love us for who we portray: ourselves. Like the Local Celebrity, we influence our networks with words, and with the examples we set with our actions.

Over the next year-and-a-half especially, we're all Local Celebrities. Keep this in mind. An amendment battle is brewing. ■



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## A SOCIETY MOUSE

A light rain was falling as families with children arrived at the towering wrought-iron gates of 1006 Summit Avenue for Governor Mark Dayton and the 1006 Summit Avenue Society's Children's Ice Cream Social.

Kathy Buggy, 1006 Summit Avenue Society President, and Mary Lacey, Event-organizer, greeted guests at the door with a charming mouse (or possibly a four-foot child in costume) named Herb at her side. A recently recognized resident of the house, Herb was emcee of the party, held in honor of the new book *The Governor's Mouse*, detailing Herb's life within the stately walls. The book, written by Kristin Parrish and illustrated by Kristen Sevig, takes readers on a mouse-sized tour of the Irvine Mansion.

The guests filed through the receiving line in the oak-paneled foyer. A volunteer perched on the third step of the grand main staircase, where, if you leaned in, you could see the entrance to Herb's home, tucked into the corner of the newel post. A small white window and arched blue door with his miniature window box filled with spring flowers is quite a sight to see.

In the solarium, volunteers P.J. Harris and Adrian Mega greeted guests, and passed out name badges. The author and illustrator were there to sign copies of the book, and offer tidbits of information on Herb's life.

On the terrace, under a massive white tent, volunteer Karie Johnson led guests in a Minnesota themed cakewalk.

In the society's lower-level boardroom, volunteers and Koehler & Dramm Florists helped children create flower arrangements. Crafted from brightly colored carnations in parfait glasses, the simulated sundaes made excellent gifts for mothers who had brought their children to the event.

In the billiards room, artists carefully painted the rosy cheeks of young and old alike with glittering paints, while a balloon



(From left) 1006 Society Committee-person Adrien Mega, 1006 Society President Kathy Buggy, Governor Mark Dayton, and 1006 Society committee-person Brooke Voss. Photo Courtesy of The MN Governor's Residence

artist created fun wristlets for the kids in the form of bugs and flowers.

Prairie School of Dance of Eden Prairie provided the afternoon's entertainment, a ballet performance. The young dancers seemed unfazed by the humid air. Guests were awed by their dexterity. Tables seating six or eight crowded the terrace. A hum of activity and delighted voices filled the tent. Polka-dot balloon arrangements and large bowls of pansies punched up the color.

In the dining room, the mansion's chef scooped ice cream into bowls. On the buffet were brightly colored sprinkles, heaping bowls of whipped cream, chocolate fudge, caramel, and mouse-shaped cookies, so guests could customize their ice cream dessert. The huge silver epergne on the dining table held cookie crumbles (an ingenious idea not unnoticed by the silver collectors in the crowd).

As the afternoon of history, charm, and fun came to a close, children wrestled back into their rain gear, and made their way out the front door. Governor Mark Dayton, Kathy Buggy, and of course Herb waved good-bye

from the front stoop. So the afternoon ended—and a good time was had by all.

### Elements of the Party

- **Invitations** Using illustrations from the book, the invitation card introduced Herb and official host Governor Dayton with brightly colored pictures.

- **Drinks** Lemonade, iced tea, and prosecco gave choices for young and old. Appropriate to a children's party, the beverages (except the alcoholic ones) were offered in optional "sippy" cups. Limiting the number of choices made the lines move swiftly.





- **Menu** It was simple: ice cream only for an ice cream social. With all the ice cream topping choices, it almost felt like a full meal. The residence served good old-fashioned Minnesota-made Kemps Vanilla Ice Cream.

- **Party Time** An ice cream social is held sometime after lunch, but before tea. This is a kind of garden party, which means it should end before the dinner hour.

- **Decorations** Early summer bouquets of pansies and other garden favorites were perfect. Airy flowers are best for this time of year.

- **Parting Gifts** Guests were given summertime bags for the beach. Adults left with a brightly colored tote from the 1006 Society, filled with tickets for summer events. Children received a beach pail with a shovel, Play-Doh and a Governor's Mouse coloring book.



Photo by Sean Ryan

## RECIPE

### Chocolate Ice Cream

Makes about 4 cups.

2 cups heavy cream  
1 cup whole milk  
3/4 cup sugar  
2 tablespoon natural cocoa  
1/8 teaspoon salt

Place your ice cream maker can into the freezer to cool.

Pour cream and milk into a saucepan, and bring liquid to scalding temperature.

In a separate bowl, combine the dry ingredients. Whisk thoroughly to break up clumps. Add the dry ingredients to the scalded milk mixture, and stir with whisk until combined. Move the mixture to the refrigerator to cool for two hours.

Once the mixture is cool, pour it into the prechilled ice cream canister, and place it into your maker.

Crank or run your ice cream maker for 35 to 45 minutes.

Once firm, place the ice cream in the freezer for two more hours to finish.

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Governor's Residence. Photo Courtesy of The MN Governor's Residence

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# TALLINN, ESTONIA

Having thrown off Soviet shackles two decades ago, Tallinn, Estonia, now boasts a lively scene for tourists, including gay folks.

"I AM NOBODY!" Sergei bawled as he staggered from the bar into the bustle of Tallinn's cobbled streets, the perfect picture of a Russian loser. For decades, the Soviets had ruled Tallinn, and all Estonia, with an iron grip, but (Sergei's right) no more. In 1991, Estonia became the first Baltic satellite to sever the Soviet grasp, and become a free nation.

For centuries, this terrain had been coveted by a steady succession of conquerors—Danes, Germans, Swedes, Russians, Nazis, and finally Soviets—until the Singing Revolution. "In Estonia, we prefer to sing than fight," our guide, Aare, explained, one of thousands who protested during song festivals by mixing forbidden Estonian national anthems among the usual "Stalin Is Terrific" choruses. Aare, at 20, had been drafted into the Soviet army, and sent to St. Petersburg as driver for a Russian general, then had to swear not to speak to foreigners after his release.

Today, Aare speaks passionately about the triumphant rise in energy and enterprise overtaking his homeland now that his people are free. For the before-and-after picture, we toured the former KGB headquarters atop the Viga—the only hotel for foreigners during occupation days. When the feared secret police pulled out, they left behind a chilling network of surveillance materials, from bugged hotel rooms and saunas to even the restaurant's ashtrays, linked to Moscow.

Nearby stands the Museum of the Occupations—plural, because it details the clamp-downs, concentration camps, and gulags of both Nazis and the Soviets who followed. Then, descend for an underground tour of the tunnels below the Medieval bastion walls that surround the Old Town—hideout, over the years, for the homeless, anti-Soviet punks and the innocent populace whom the Russians bombed into oblivion on one memorable night in 1944.

To absorb the city's centuries of history told through music, we signed on for a more upbeat tour, leading us from the age-old Hansa café, where we stuffed ourselves with schnapps, smoked cheese, and pickled turnips, while a musician played Medi-

eval instruments, from an accordion to a cow horn ("to keep away all bad") and a clay ocarina ("a very rarity"). Then, on to minstrels in a gorgeous guild-hall of the Middle Ages, and finally, a stop for cake in Malasmokk ("sweet tooth"), a coffeehouse since 1864, whose violinist wafted 1930s hits.

Leaving...wait, what's this? The KGB again! An armed officer lined us up for interrogation, demanding passports, searching purses, handcuffing the recalcitrant, then loading us into an unmarked van—for vodka and Hail Russia songs on his guitar, the musical tour's finale.

In Kadrioru Park, we encounter Russians of an earlier era. Here, Tsar Peter the Great built a summer palace (now an art museum) for Tsarina Catherine. Across the green looms KUMA, harbinger of contemporary Baltic art—think an uberarmchair built of truck tires, etc. It's this avant vibe that titillates visitors today in the postcard-ready Old Town.

Between the spare, lean, Lutheran spire of St. Olav Church, once the tallest in all Europe, and the Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, all icons and incense-scented under its onion dome, explore the former granary that now houses the Museum of Applied Arts to glimpse what current creative types are up to: a racing bike with antler handlebars; a forest of blue-glass mushrooms, jewelry as art—stuff that leaves the Walker in the dust.

Tallinn's food scene showcases equal creativity. Open a menu in MEKK (Modern Estonian Kitchen), star of the charming Savoy Hotel, to feast on salmon with lemon yogurt, quail egg, and tomato vinaigrette, followed by duck with crispy onions, honey-roasted beets, and spiced pear sauce. Or slide into its homey bar for revisited classics like salmon-dill cream soup and bear-meat dumplings.

Restaurant O—voted best in the city—slicks up traditional dishes for today's palates in fare ranging from a savory crayfish bisque to crème brûlée sided with rhubarb sorbet. Kaerajaan, a modern outpost on the historic square, takes pride in roasted Baltic herring with potato salad and Parmesan-oatmeal







1 National Clothes. Photo by Jaak Nilson • 2 Town Hall Square in Tallinn. Photo by Jaak Nilson • 3 View of St. Olav's Church. Photo by Ain Avik • 4 View from rooftop café. Photo by Arno Mikkor • 5 View of Great Coastal Gate. Photo by Tavi Grepp. • 6 Old Town, Tallinn. Photo by Allan Alajaan. • 7 Medieval Days on Town Hall Square. Photo by Karel Koplimets



crusted chicken with currant-studded rice. Meanwhile, Nano—the quirky home-cum-café operated by a glam supermodel married to a DJ—harks back to tradition, with apps ranging from pickled beets to herring and potatoes in sour cream, followed by chicken in cherry preserves.

From the city's best to the best in the land: On Saaremaa Island, Padaste Manor—an estate with Medieval roots—serves guests in the lingering daylight of a summer's eve with juniper-smoked goat cheese, then cod with a trio of parsnips, celery, and apples, followed by rhubarb compote with licorice meringue. On Saaremaa, we kayaked among seabirds, then dined in the Episcopal Castle, a fortress from the 1300s, on lusty Medieval fare—delicious salmon, pork roast—amid candlelight and strumming lutes

On neighboring Muhu Island, another superstar takes over. Sikka, the Julia Child of the Baltics, has converted a shambling farm into guest quarters-cum-cooking school, Nami Namaste, where her husband, Tony, schooled us in potato-leek bisque and roasted salmon.

Whet your own appetite at <[www.visitesonia.com](http://www.visitesonia.com)>. 

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# [ PRIDE IN SPORTS ]



JUNE IS the month that we dedicate to celebrating our gayness—our pride for being who we are. Some commemorate how we're really not that different from those who play for the other team, and others mark all the ways we are different.

We're almost forced to look inward at what it means to be who we are. I find myself wondering how many GLBT men and women identify themselves, truly, as gay athletes. What does that even mean? Does it matter? In sports, and for the gay athlete, there can be mental, emotional, and physical obstacles to getting involved. Gay men and women who would otherwise love to, for whatever reason, just don't go out and do something athletic.

There is *something* about gays that blocks us from being the athletes we could be, maybe even want to be. This is especially true in the world of male athletes, because of stereotypes we encounter every day.

Do we ever ask ourselves: What is it about gay men and women that keeps us from participating in sports?

Why don't more of us celebrate our athleticism with the same energy we celebrate

our new jobs or our fancy new garden?

Why don't more of us push ourselves as athletes to excel in our sport with the same force of will we apply to a Saturday night out drinking, dancing, and cruising, or staying up all night partying at the newest trendy club?

Why don't we compete with the same drive that our straight counterparts—men especially—do, and why don't we celebrate it?

Status and fear play a huge role in why gay men and women choose to play a sport or not. These reasons for and against fall into two basic camps.

The first is status. Some people will play because they think it's a means to an end: "If I play a sport, I will be more popular, be invited to more parties, and being fit I will be more physically attractive, so I'll have more sex." This is the jock fantasy.

Obviously, I can't speak for the ladies, but from my experience, too many gay male athletes barely consider themselves athletes for the sake of sport. It's a byline to a M4M ad on Craigslist, or a stat on Grindr. Being an athlete for many gay men is a means to a wholly nonathletic end, and has nothing to

do with promoting their sport or team.

They put as much work into being the guy who plays soccer, or the guy who plays rugby (yes, I said it), that they can't "turn it on" while on the field, and strive to be the guy who is the best soccer player or the best rugby player, thereby losing new recruits who want to excel at the sport.

The second reason gay guys can't or won't be athletes is fear: of doing something wrong; of getting hurt; of losing or not being "man enough." Playing a sport for fun, even at a socially competitive level, doesn't get you more money, more renown, more things...so why look like a fool, or get hurt trying?

We march in Pride parades. We set up booths at the Pride festival. We send out a call to arms to get people to play our game. Do we take pride in that? Should we? I think we should take pride in removing these obstacles—overcoming our fears, and striving to be an athlete for the sake of honoring our sport. ■



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Eric Guttierrez, Mr. Leather Europe 2010, was chosen the new International Mr. Leather on May 29. In his speech during the contest, Guttierrez described himself as “a typical European mix.” His parents are from Spain, he grew up near the Belgian frontier, and he now lives in the French Alps near the Swiss border.

First runner-up was Douglas Pamplin, Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2011. Second runner-up was Anthony Rollar, Mr. San Diego Leather 2010. The new International Mr. Bootblack is Jim Deuder from New York. ◻



(From left) Jim Deuder, Anthony Rollar, Eric Guttierrez, Douglas Pamplin. Photo by Steve Lenius



(From left) Anthony Rollar, Eric Guttierrez, Douglas Pamplin, Jim Deuder. Photo by Steve Lenius

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## BUSINESS PROFILE | by Heidi Fellner



Photo Courtesy of Jerry A. Burg

## JERRY A. BURG

HAVING PRACTICED law since 1990, Jerry A. Burg now has his own law office in Uptown Minneapolis. His new practice concentrates on three areas: family law, criminal law, and employment law.

While the last two encompass a vast number of different circumstances, family law is narrower, centering on custody, parental rights issues, and divorce. However, when clients have unconventional families, and aren't allowed the legal protection of marriage, family law becomes far more complicated.

Burg says, "The reality is that there are a lot of people who need advice when their family is going to break apart, and a lot of people who need advice when they're trying to put a family together. It's not always an easy process to try to mirror marriage by trying to put together legal documents, and you can only go so far. You can't contract around the Defense of Marriage Act."

Of course, no one wants to spend time and money sitting in a lawyer's office, but as Burg puts it, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Pulling documents off the Internet and filling them out yourself can lead to painful and costly disputes down the road. Not as many people may try the do-it-yourself approach to criminal law, but they still may fail

to hire a lawyer for less serious offenses.

As Burg explains, many times, even in a first-time misdemeanor charge, a good lawyer can arrange for a much better outcome, including no long-term consequences for the client.

Burg continues to practice employment law, representing clients in agency proceedings, and in both state and federal court. He finds this area of practice rewarding and challenging.

In Burg's words, "Discrimination is always tough to prove, and the 'bad guys' are good at hiding their hostility, but I love this work."

Currently, Burg is spending extra time researching laws that affect the transgender community.

As Burg notes, "I think that one of the cutting edge areas [of law] and one of the frustrating areas is the whole universe of legal rights—the absence of legal and social support for individuals who are living their lives as the gender they experience themselves to be. Anatomy seems to be very important to state legislators. It's not so terribly important to people who understand what gender means." □

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# Matchmaker, Matchmaker

TODAY, I received an e-mail from a woman I don't know asking me to set up a friend of hers. I've never met either of these women—never even heard of them—and yet they've charged me with the task of playing matchmaker.

They learned of me through the somewhat moldy grapevine that is always threatening to strangle the greater Midwest lesbian community. These women live three states away from me, and somehow managed to hear of my remarkable matchmaking skills.

That's right—I'm a matchmaker. I don't do it for money or even for fun (it usually just makes me anxious). I do it because it's my calling. It's like telling Liberace not to own poodles, or Bette Midler not to show cleavage. I simply must match-make.

It's strange that I match-make as a hobby, especially considering my mostly ghastly personal romantic choices.

If I had the choice between some heartless, wicked ass and someone who is really nice, selfless, and bakes her own bread, I'd choose the ass every time.

In spite of that, though, I'm weirdly obsessed with finding exactly the right person for everyone else on the planet.

The first thing I do when I meet a single

person (gay or straight) is to inquire about his or her "type." I deeply respect the "type." The key to successful matchmaking is instant physical attraction. If you don't understand the importance of lust, you'll never make it as a matchmaker.

Recently, I was watching a TV show where a matchmaker desperately tried to shove an unattractive woman down a rather hunky guy's throat. It was a disaster, and everyone got hurt in the end.

The poor guy was painfully polite, and his date was deeply uncomfortable to be in the presence of such awesome beauty. She kept looking away from him, as if by staring directly at him with her dull, little eyes, she might fry her corneas.

Yes, it would be fantastic if the real world were a Disney film where inner beauty blinds suitors to your outer ugliness, but it's not.

Everyone wants to be with someone better looking than him or her. So, the trick to making a successful match is to find a pair who have about the same level of physical attractiveness, but who have certain characteristics that convince the date he or she is, in fact, physically superior.

The confidence to wear fancy hats is always a good differentiator. Anyone who

can speak fluent French, or at least enough French to fool a waiter, bounces several notches up the attractiveness scale.

Once you've found a lust match, you refine the match by pairing for personality and intelligence. Frankly, no one cares if you share a passion for ant farming if he or she doesn't find you sexy.

The most important part of matchmaking is to run away as soon as you make the match. I'm not kidding. Get them to their first date, and run far away.

There is absolutely no benefit to sticking around to see how it turns out. If it's a disaster, they'll blame you. If they get married, you might get a mention during a wedding toast, but don't count on it.

No one likes to admit being set up. People in love want to perpetuate the fantasy that romantic couplings are magical things happening only to very special people.

It's fate! It's not the work of some bored matchmaker you've never met before, clicking through her registry of desperate singles, and tossing you together with as much care and thought as a sloppy kindergartner selecting the perfect colors of finger paint. ■

*Hey! I wrote a book. You can buy Dateland on Amazon.*

TROLIN, UN DIABLITO ROSA



When I was a child, I wasn't allowed to play with my other tail.



They called it "impure touching"



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POR RODRO



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**Dear Ms. Behavior:**

I am a 35-year-old queer single female. I love sex and everything about it. I love talking about it, having it, and watching it. I'm always curious to learn more about it.

My medical question is regarding female ejaculation. I have taught myself how to do it recently, but don't know much about it.

Where does it actually come from? What is it? Does it have a purpose? Why do boys love it so much?

My second question is about my friends judging me. I am a bisexual who prefers women, but still loves male sex. My straight friends don't understand, and never take me seriously. My gay friends are always judging me.

I'm mostly wondering about my gay friends. It really hurts me, and I just don't understand why they judge someone from their own team. I feel being queer is hard enough, but then having my own fellow

queers judging me about my bisexuality makes it just that much harder.

Thanks for your help!

—MANDY K

**Dear Mandy K:**

Congrats on having taught yourself to ejaculate, and for giving new meaning to the term "home schooling." Let's hope your newly honed skill feels like valuable life experience, and will entertain you on rainy days when there is nothing interesting to watch on HBO.

A lot of controversy surrounds female ejaculation, but not a whole lot of research. If you do a simple medical literature search for female ejaculation, you'll see only a few entries before the much more important topic of premature (male) ejaculation rises to the fore.

Here's the scoop: The gush of fluid that is released during female ejaculation comes

through the urethra. It's believed to come from the Skene's glands (also referred to as the female prostate), which are tiny ones on the anterior wall of the vagina that drain into the urethra. They're located right around the area referred to as "The G Spot."

The fluid was once thought to be urine, but microscopic analysis has shown that it consists primarily of PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen), with some glucose or fructose mixed in (perhaps to enhance taste).

According to "The Female Prostate Revisited: Perineal Ultrasound and Biochemical of Female Ejaculate," a 2007 article in *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*, "Biochemically, the fluid emitted during [female] orgasm showed all the parameters found in prostate plasma in contrast to the values measured in voided urine." It goes on to conclude that "the so-called female prostate is an organ itself and the source of female ejaculation."

Some people believe that female ejacu-



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lation is “new.” However, according to “The History of Female Ejaculation,” another article (2010) in *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*, this watery form of orgasm was mentioned in several Chinese Taoist texts as early as the Fourth Century; in ancient Indian writings in a Seventh-Century text; and by Aristotle in about 300 BC. So, it’s safe to say that female ejaculation preceded rock ‘n’ roll, astronauts, and Betamax.

There doesn’t appear to be a purpose for this expulsion of fluid, at least not for anything obvious like propagation of the species. Perhaps, like female orgasm, it’s merely intended to be fun.

Some detractors of the “fun” theory will say that female orgasm serves to push semen up toward the ovaries, to propagate the species. Bah, humbug.

If your boyfriends love your ejaculation, that’s great. But does this mean your girlfriends haven’t liked it? Or are you saving it all for the boys?

As for your bisexuality, it’s too bad that

your friends judge you. It’s bad enough to be judged by people who don’t know your particular charms.

Some gay people have trouble understanding that bisexuals really mean it—that their sexuality is really very fluid (no, this is not an ejaculation pun).

So, maybe your friends are judgmental because your fluidity is “other” and unfamiliar to them. They want you to “make up your mind already.”

They would rather believe that you’ll find your way to one “side” or the other, ultimately—that until you arrive at a destination categorizing you one way or the other, you’re really just struggling with internalized homophobia.

None of this is particularly kind. The concept of being on one “team” or the other (gay versus bisexual) is old school, and not in a good way. You’re in the unfortunate position of having to educate your friends.

Maybe one solution would be for you to hold workshops on Bisexual Female Ejacula-

tion. That ought to stir things up in just the right way. □

© 2011 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <mbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior’s Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.

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# A Love Letter, To You

Hello. My name is Justin, and I'd like to write you a love letter.

If you've never had a love letter written for you, consider this your first. If you've had many, I hope this will do. If you hate love letters, you probably shouldn't read this—but know that it's for you anyway.

To: You  
Re: You're Cute

Hey—so, this is going to sound kinda weird, and maybe a little too forward.

Well, the thing is, ugh, well, I, um, kind of...like...you.

No, no. I mean, I *like* you, like you.

There, I said it.

I would put one of those “Will you go out with me? Check Yes or No” boxes here, but I'd be too nervous waiting for your reply. I mean, what if you don't even get this? Then I would never get a response, but since I thought you got it, I would think that you didn't like me, because you wouldn't have responded.

So, yeah. There it is. I like you. I mean, I think I *love* you.

I love when I see you singing in your car, when you think no one's watching, and when you dance with your iPod at the bus stop.

I love when I pass you on the street, and don't know your name, but we smile anyway.

I love when you're passionate about the things you are—I think it's cute the way you're so into cars, makeup, music, or whatever.

I love the way you're OK with who you are.

I even love you when I hate you for getting my order wrong, or cutting me off on



the highway.

I love you because you are like me.

We may look or act differently, and maybe we'll never actually meet, but I know you well enough to know that we're both human beings.

You and I suffer tragedy. We have hearts that can break, eyes that can cry, fists that can hurt, and words that can cut.

You and I breathe sweetly. We both want others to care about us, have dreams that take us to tomorrow, and pursue the passions that keep us happy.

You're skeptical, I feel. How is it that I can love someone I've never met?

I love people, even those I haven't met, because that's how we get along in the world. It's the most basic thing we can do for one another: to show compassion, even to those we can't stand. That doesn't mean becoming pushovers or losing our spines. It means fighting when we need to, but loving because we have to.

When under attack by those who dis-

agree with us, vile, hateful words do nothing to mend the fence. That's a hard pill to swallow sometimes, especially in the heat of the moment.

If we instead take a step back, allow a moment to breathe, and tell ourselves before we say things we'll regret, “I love this person,” we approach things more thoughtfully. Even if you don't *love* someone, simply saying it to yourself will make you instantly feel more compassionate.

So, yes, I love you.

We have our arguments just like any lovers do. We don't always see eye-to-eye, and sometimes, we just don't like each other at all, but when the shit hits the fan, I hope we're there for one another.

I realized I loved you the night I argued with a guy to the point of physical intensity. I remember only that we were strangers, and a simple disagreement led to a nasty, explosive battle.

Anyway, after our *friends-had-to-separate-us* argument, as we were leaving the bar, I stupidly/drunkenly slipped on a patch of ice, and hit my head on the cement. The guy I'd argued with was the first to see. He was the first to help me to my feet. He was the first to ask me if I was OK.

I questioned why he was suddenly so kind to me. His response? “Justin, I don't *hate* you. I just don't *like* you.” We laughed. Not exactly a typical love letter, but one itself nevertheless.

Take this, then, to heart: I love you whether I know you or not. ■

Keep in touch! <Facebook.com/JustinJonesWriter>.





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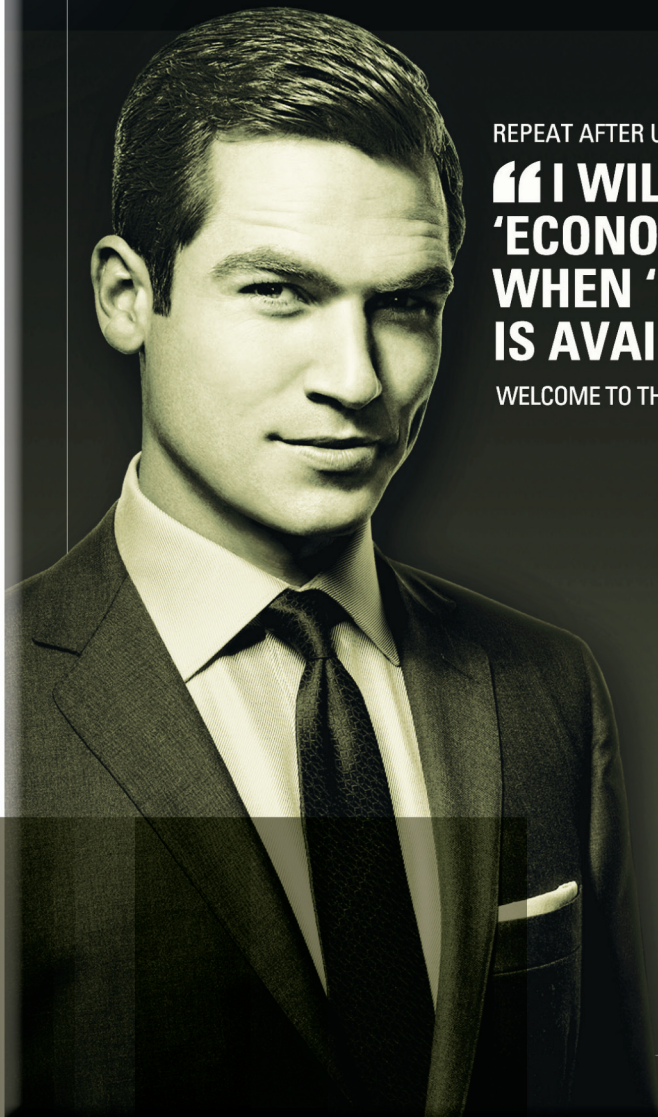
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